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AUTHORITY

INFERNO
CONTINUES

the **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**

**THE RETURN OF THE MAN CALLED
MYSTERIO!**



Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.**

THEY SAY THAT IF AN ARTIST POURS HIS HEART AND SOUL INTO HIS WORK, THAT WORK LIVES, AND HERE, AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE TO THE NEW YORK CITY LIBRARY'S MAIN BRANCH--

--IT APPEARS THAT A CERTAIN BYGONE SCULPTOR HAD DONE HIS JOB RATHER WELL.!

STONE LIONS!
COMING TO
LIFE?!

MYSTERIES OF THE DOE-AD

DAVID
MICHELINIE
WRITER

TODD
McFARLANE
ARTIST

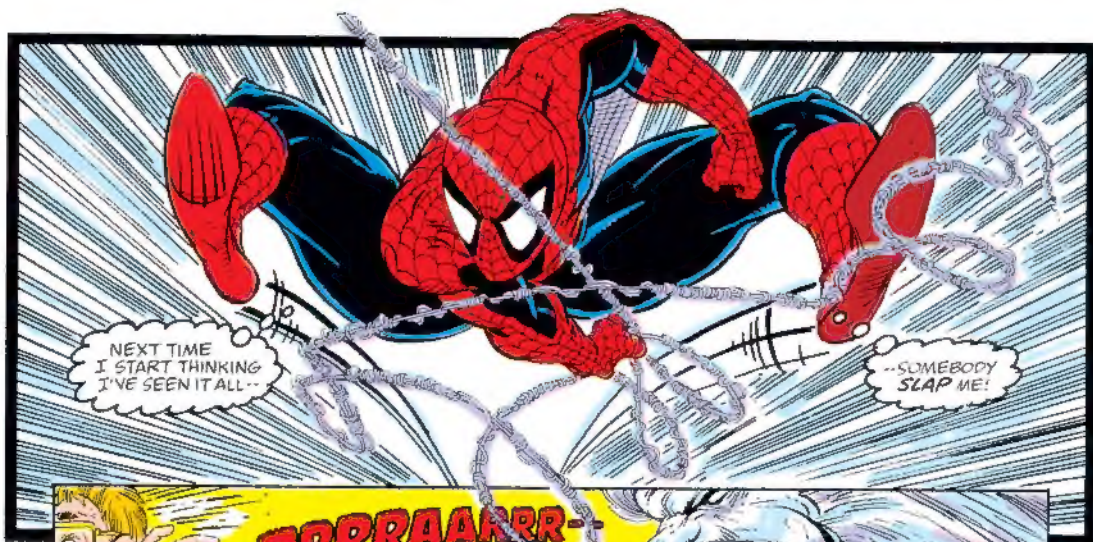
RICK
PARKER
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BOB & EVELYN
SHAREN & STEIN
COLOR

JIM
SALICRUP
EDITOR

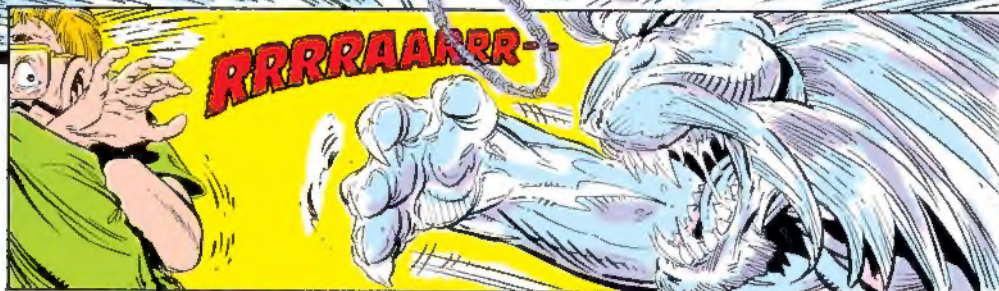
TOM
DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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NEXT TIME
I START THINKING
I'VE SEEN IT ALL...

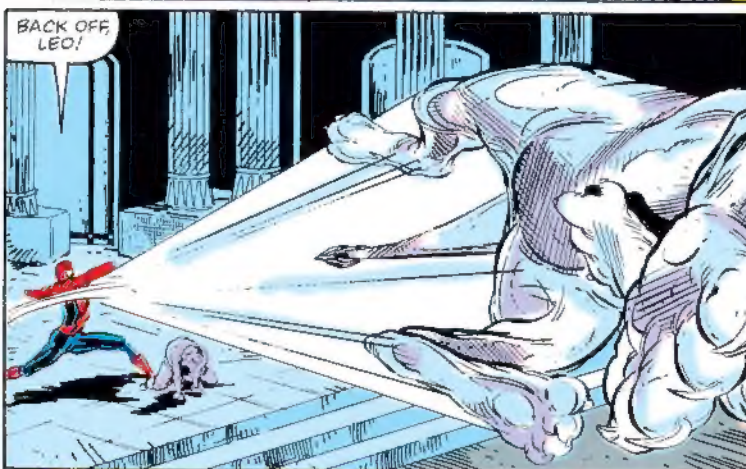
--SOMEBODY
SLAP ME!



RRRRRAARRR--



--RRRRrrrk



BACK OFF,
LEO!

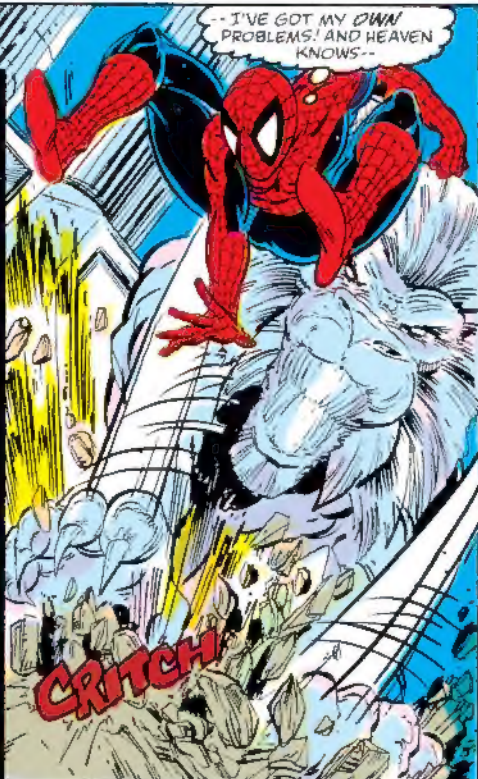


WHAT
HAPPENED
HERE?

B-B-BEATS ME! I-I WAS ON
MY WAY TO WORK ON A TERM
PAPER, WH-WHEN THOSE STATUES
JUST STARTED ATTACKING!

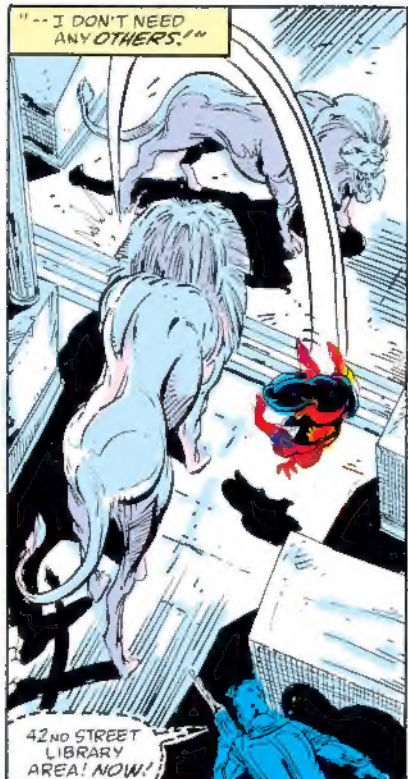


I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT A LOT OF WEIRD THINGS GOING ON THE LAST 24 HOURS! BUT RIGHT NOW--



-- I'VE GOT MY OWN PROBLEMS! AND HEAVEN KNOWS--

CRITCH

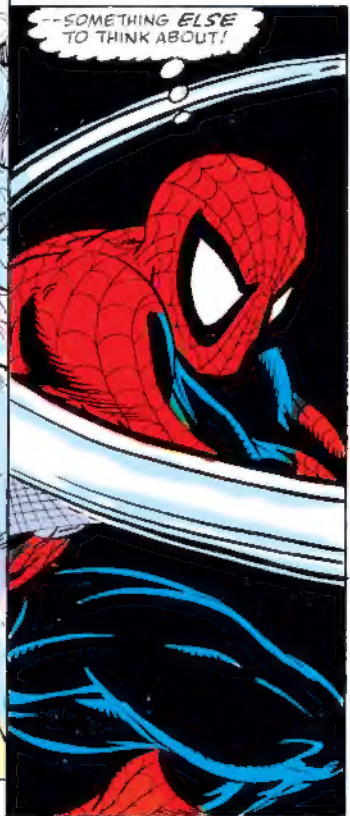


"-- I DON'T NEED ANY OTHERS."

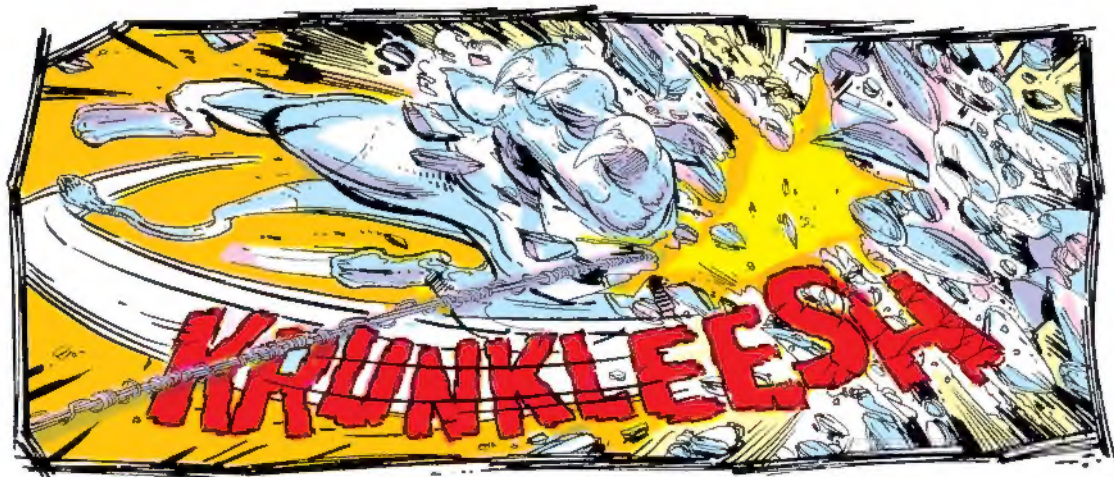
42ND STREET LIBRARY AREA! NOW!



CIVILIANS SAFE! STONE TABBIES ARE CONCENTRATING ON ME! TIME TO GIVE THEM--



-- SOMETHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT!



THEY'RE IN PIECES--
BUT STILL MOVING?!

I-I'M
STARTING
TO FEEL A
LITTLE
GULP-
QUEASY!



BETTER LEAVE...
NAUSEA CAN GET
MESSY WHEN
YOU WEAR A
MASK!

EEEEEE!

SCREAMS!

I'LL JUST
GRAB THE
AUTOMATIC
CAMERA I
WEBBED TO
THIS WALL,
AND--



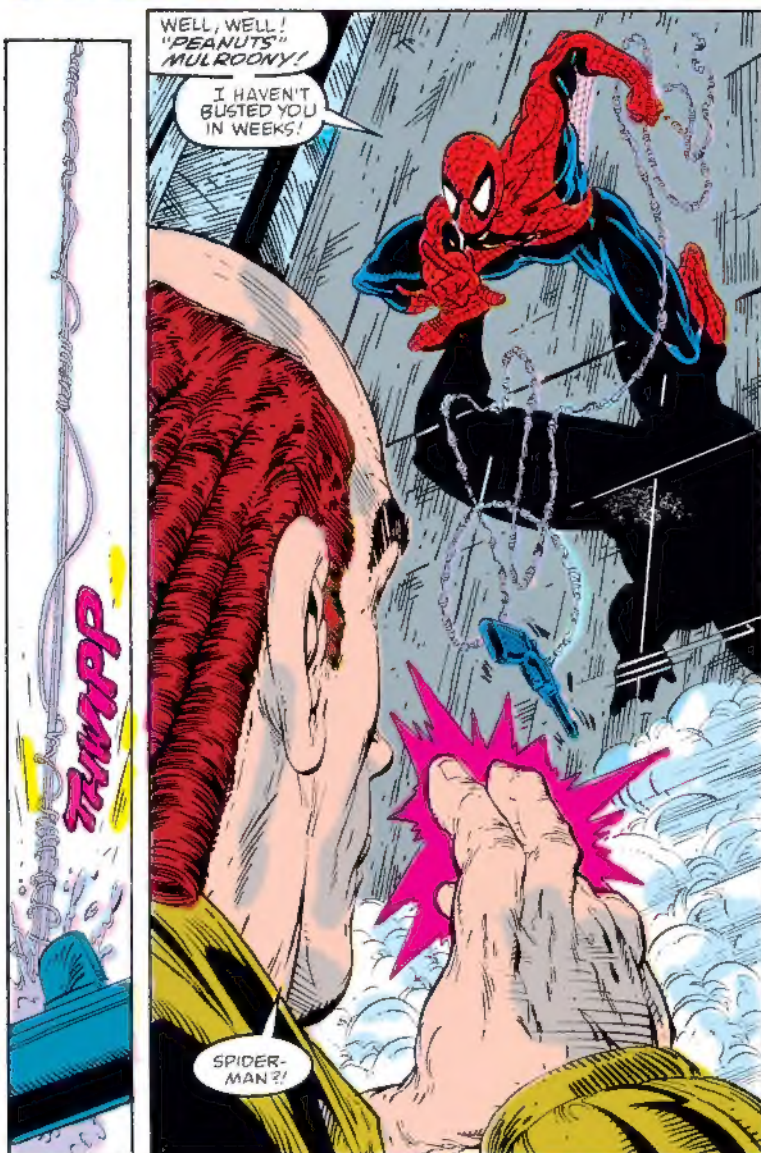
SELLING NEWS PHOTOS
IS HOW I DEFRAY THE COSTS
OF MY GRADUATE PROGRAM
AT THE UNIVERSITY!

I JUST HOPE MY
NEXT SUBJECT ISN'T
AS SPOOKY AS THOSE
LIONS!



AH! AN OLD-FASHIONED MUGGING!

ALLEY'S KIND OF FOGGY-- PROBABLY THE FREAK HEAT WAVE WE'RE HAVING-- BUT I THINK I RECOGNIZE THE CULPRIT! I'LL JUST SET UP MY CAMERA AND...



WELL, WELL! "PEANUTS" MULROONY!

I HAVEN'T BUSTED YOU IN WEEKS!

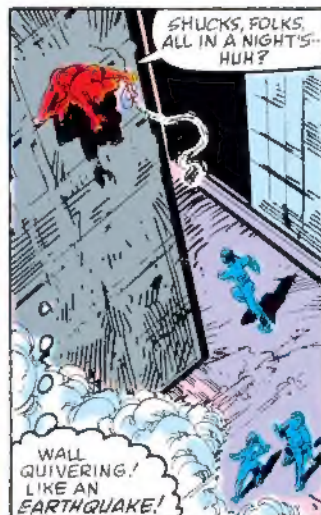
THWIP

SPIDER-MAN?!



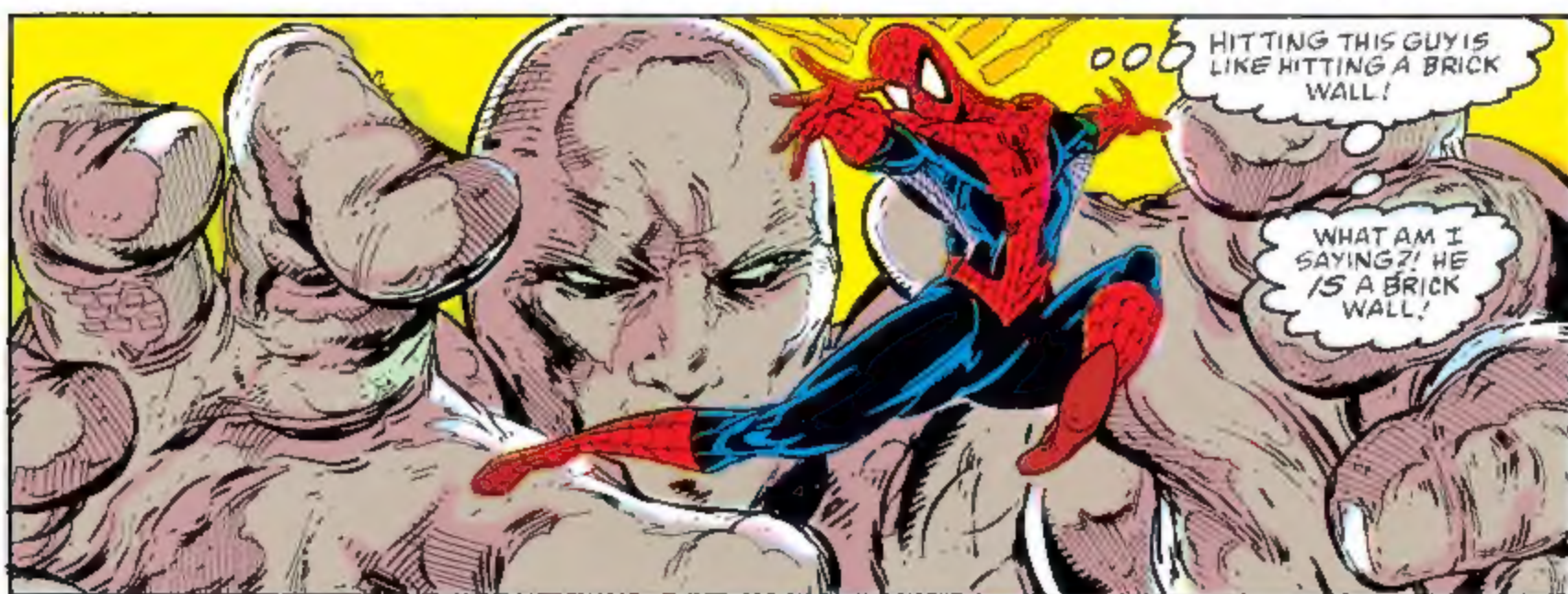
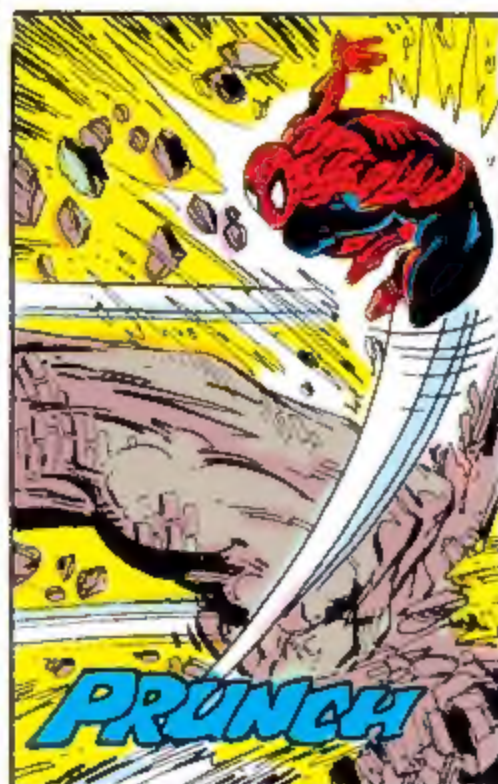
W-WE'RE SAVED, TOMMY!

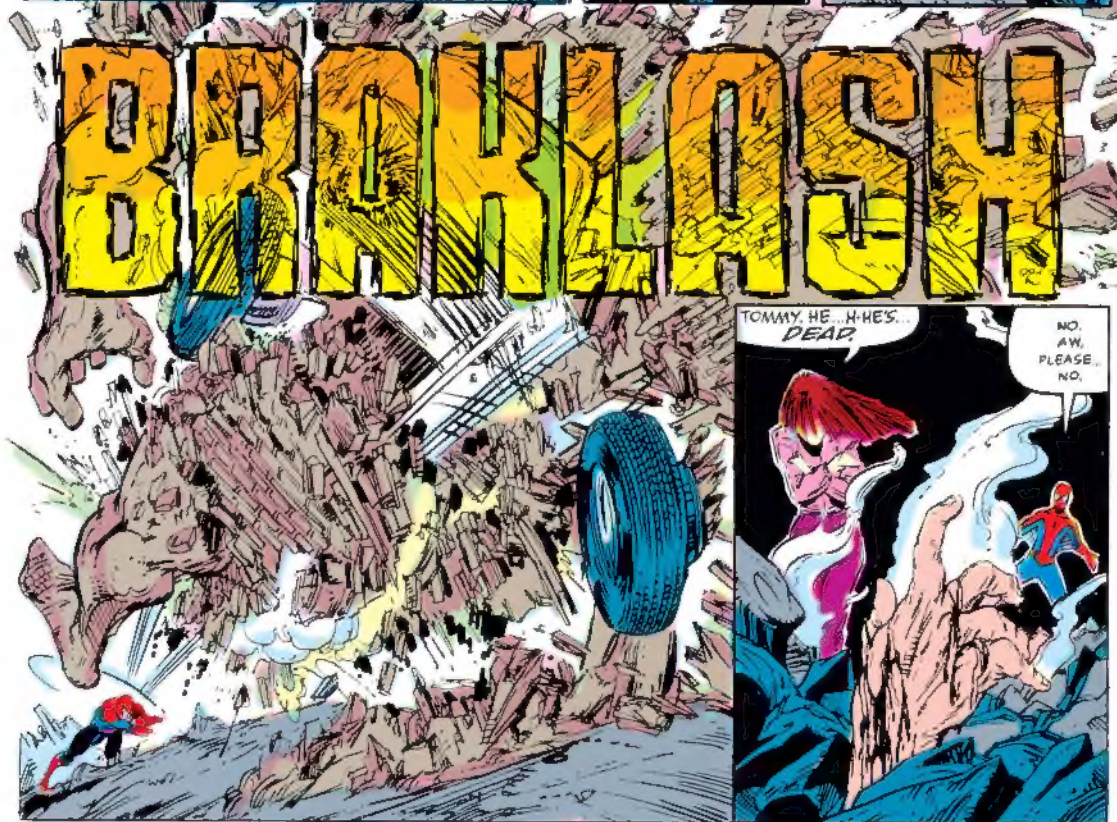
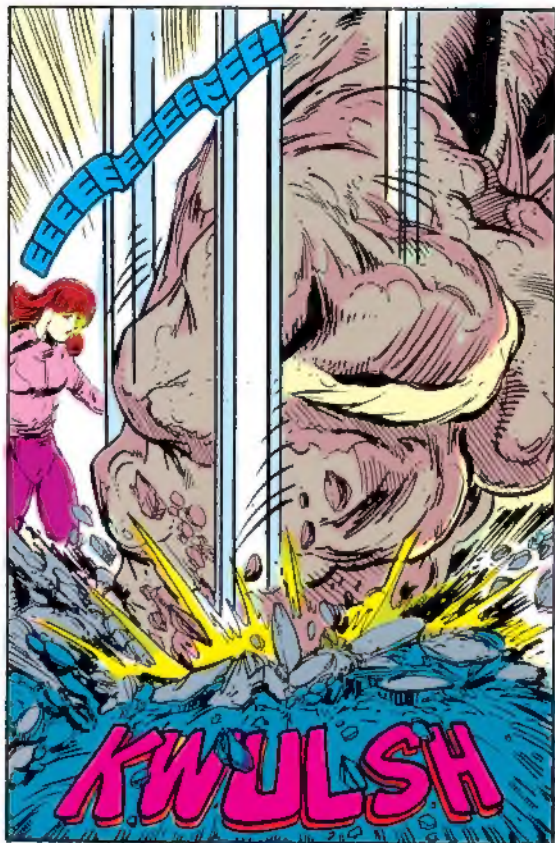
I TOLD YOU NEW YORK WAS A FRIENDLY TOWN, BEV!

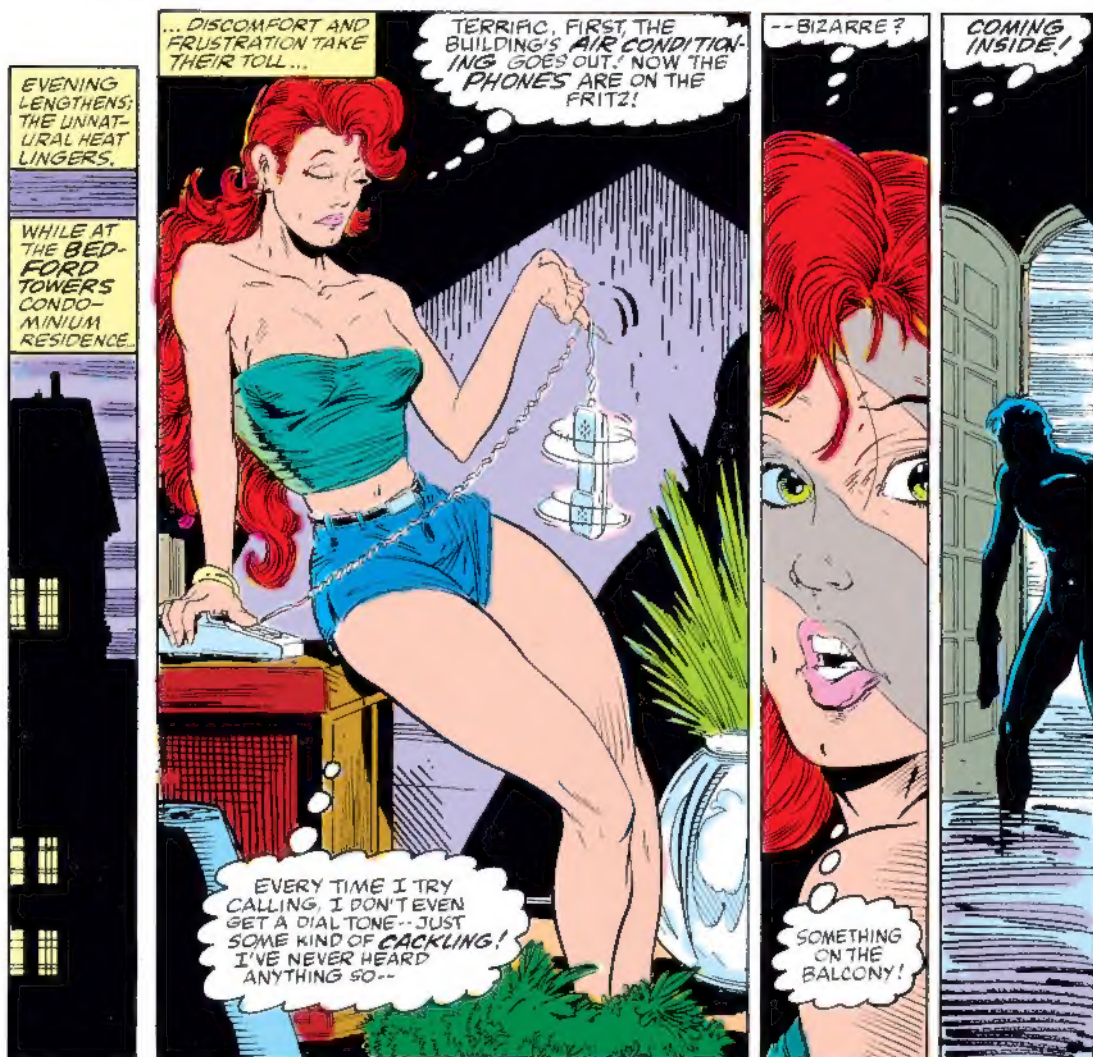
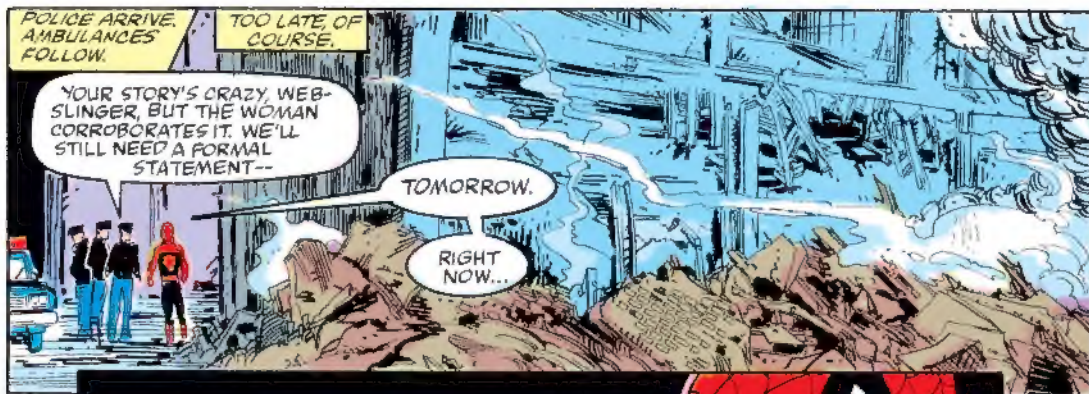


SHUCKS, FOLKS, ALL IN A NIGHT'S HUH?

WALL QUIVERING! LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE!









3 WHEWE PETER! YOU GAVE ME SUCH A --HEY.

SOMETHING WRONG?

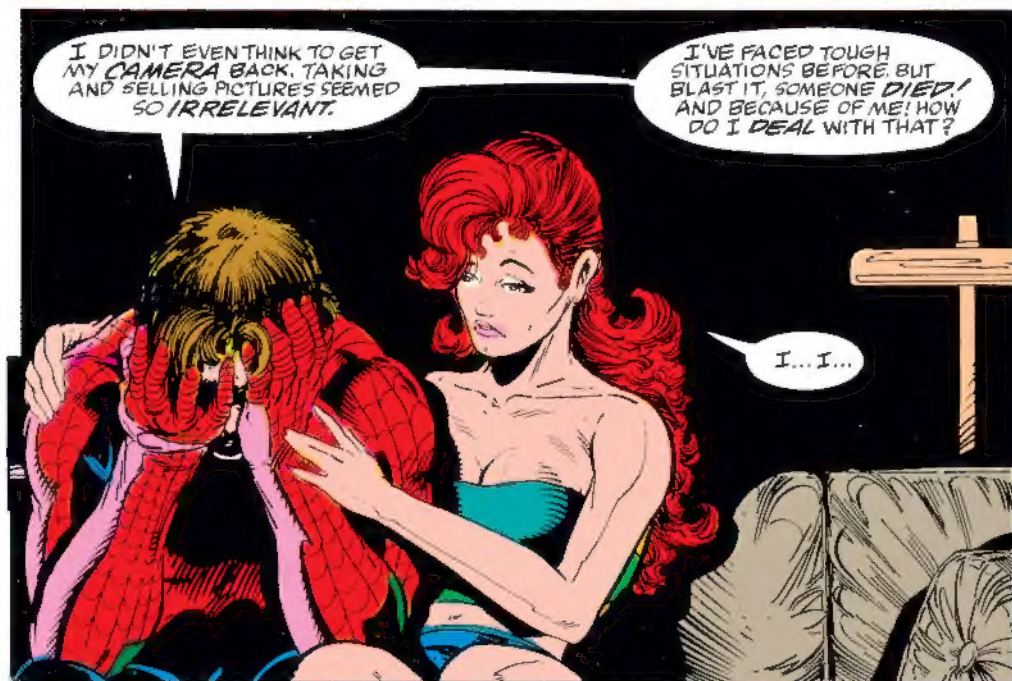
HE SITS; HE TALKS. HIS WORRIED WIFE LISTENS...



I WAS RESPONSIBLE, MARY JANE. AT LEAST INDIRECTLY, IT WAS MY FIGHT!

NOW MY PRIORITIES, MY VALUES, ARE ALL CONFUSED.

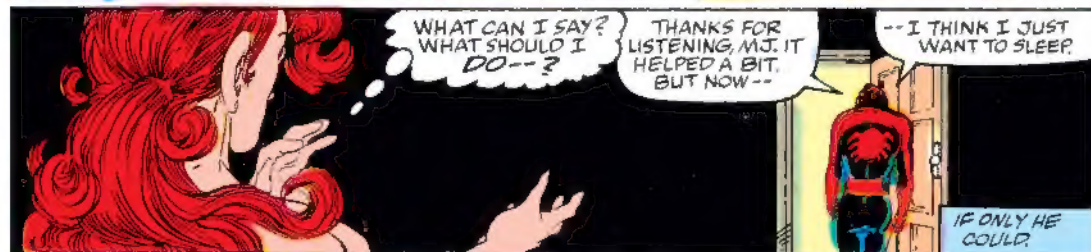
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT ANYMORE.



I DIDN'T EVEN THINK TO GET MY CAMERA BACK. TAKING AND SELLING PICTURES SEEMED SO IRRELEVANT.

I'VE FACED TOUGH SITUATIONS BEFORE, BUT BLAST IT, SOMEONE DIED! AND BECAUSE OF ME! HOW DO I DEAL WITH THAT?

I... I...



WHAT CAN I SAY? WHAT SHOULD I DO--?

THANKS FOR LISTENING, M.J. IT HELPED A BIT, BUT NOW--

-- I THINK I JUST WANT TO SLEEP.

IF ONLY HE COULD.

THE NEXT
MORNING--
EMPIRE
STATE
UNIVERSITY.



A PHYSICS LECTURE IS BARELY HEARD.

TO REITERATE, THE THERMODYNAMIC PROPERTIES OF -ESSER--

CAN'T CONCENTRATE KEEP SEEING THAT MAN'S FACE, HEARING THE WOMAN'S SCREAM.

MR PARKER?

BETTER HEAD FOR THE LAB MAYBE--

WELL, HEY

CURT CONNORS!

ARE WE BORING YOU?

NUTS.

WHO PETER?

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU

I'VE STARTED UP MY GRADUATE STUDIES AGAIN, DR. CONNORS.

MAYBE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER SOMETIME.

HMM? OH, YES! OF COURSE!

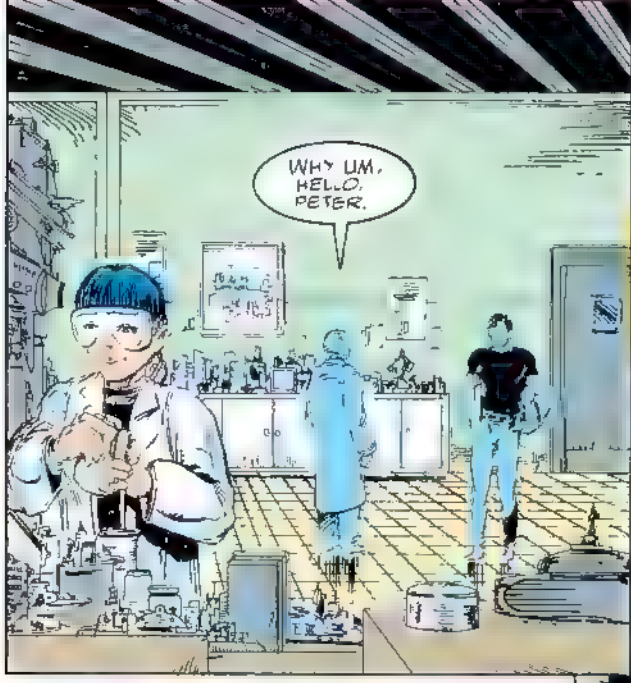
YOU OKAY? YOU SEEM DISTRACTED

NO, NO, MERELY ADJUSTING TO THE NEW TERM. I'LL JM SEE YOU LATER PETER

ACTUALLY I HAVE BEEN FEELING ODD-- PROBABLY JUST THE STRANGE WEATHER.

AND WHY BOTHER YOUNG PARKER ABOUT IT? I'M SURE HE'S GOT TROUBLES OF HIS OWN. .!

INDEED, BUT HE TRIES TO FORGET THEM AS HE ENTERS THE SCIENCE BUILDING WHERE, ALONG WITH BRITISH TRANSFER STUDENT ANNE-MARIE BAKER, HE WORKS AS A RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR DR. EVAN SWANN...



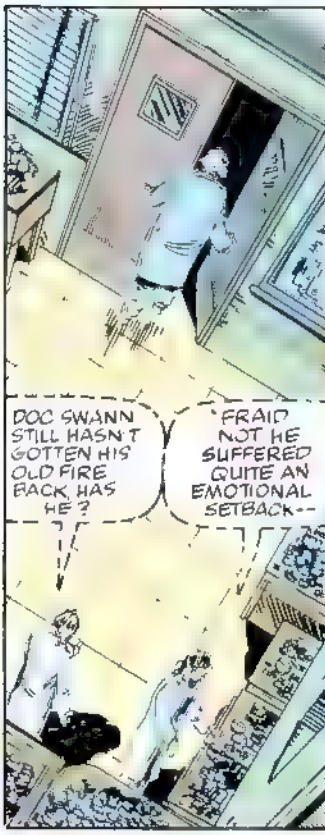
WHY UM, HELLO, PETER.

EVERYTHING GOING WELL?

SURE, DR. SWANN.



FINE FINE UM, CARRY ON.



DOC SWANN STILL HASN'T GOTTEN HIS OLD FIRE BACK HAS HE?

*FRAID NOT HE SUFFERED QUITE AN EMOTIONAL SETBACK--

-- WHEN IT CAME OUT THAT HE'D BOUGHT HIS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA! * THE UNIVERSITY WAS WISE ENOUGH TO WANT TO KEEP HIM ON --

-- BUT THEY STILL HAD TO DISCIPLINE HIM. HE WAS STRIPPED OF TENURE AND PRIVILEGES, AND HE HASN'T QUITE GOT OVER THAT YET



*SEE LAST ISSUE - JS

WISH I COULD BE MORE SYMPATHETIC, BUT MY MIND KEEPS COMING BACK TO MY OWN PROBLEMS, JUST WHAT I NEED.

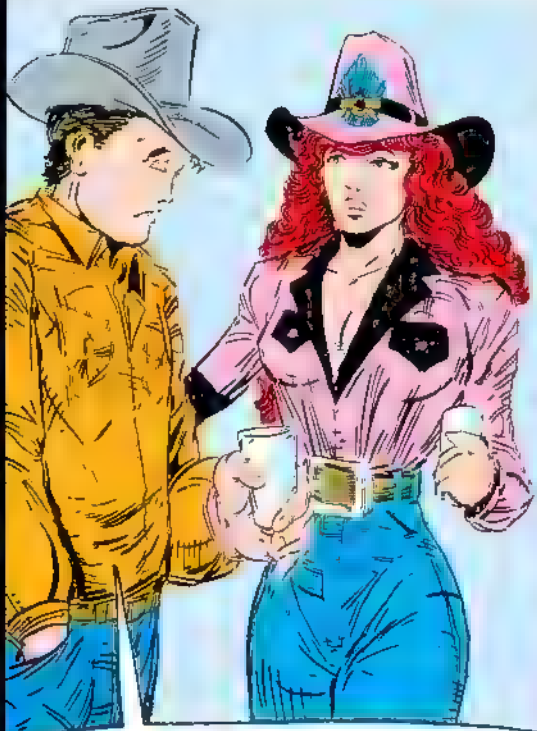


SOMETHING ELSE TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT!

WHILE THAT NIGHT.

Mustang
Ed's

I FEEL A
LITTLE GUILTY,
PETER



DON'T BE SILLY. WE AGREED TO ATTEND
THIS PUBLICITY BASH WEEKS AGO. LE DERRIERE
PICKED YOU AS THE MODEL FOR THEIR JEANS ADS,
AND SINCE THEY'RE SPONSORING THIS SHNDIG, WE
COULDN'T VERY WELL CANCEL AT THE LAST MINUTE

THANKS, YOU'RE A DEAR.
WE'LL JUST KNOCK BACK
A COUPLE OF DIET SODAS,
AND THEN LEAVE WITHOUT-



I THOUGHT
I'D FIND YOU HERE,
YOU WORM!

YOU SWORE YOU'D LAND ME THE
LEAD IN THOSE NETWORK SPOTS!
AN' WHAT'D I GET? A CROWD SHOT?
WHAT KINDA AGENT **ARE** YOU?



C'MON, HAL!
S-SOMETIMES
SHOWBIZ AIN'T
PRETTY!

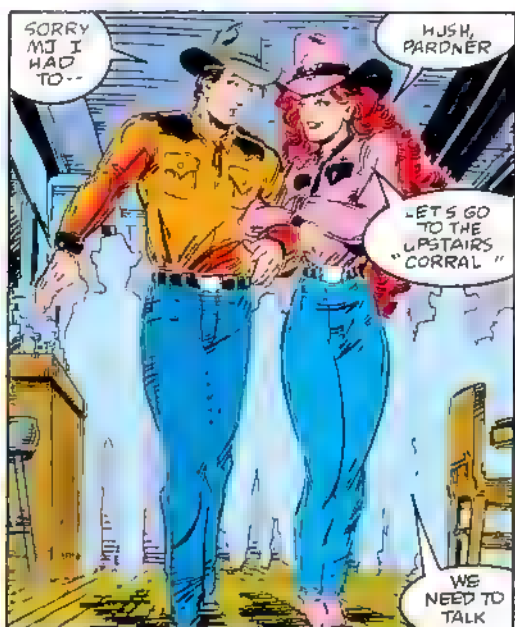
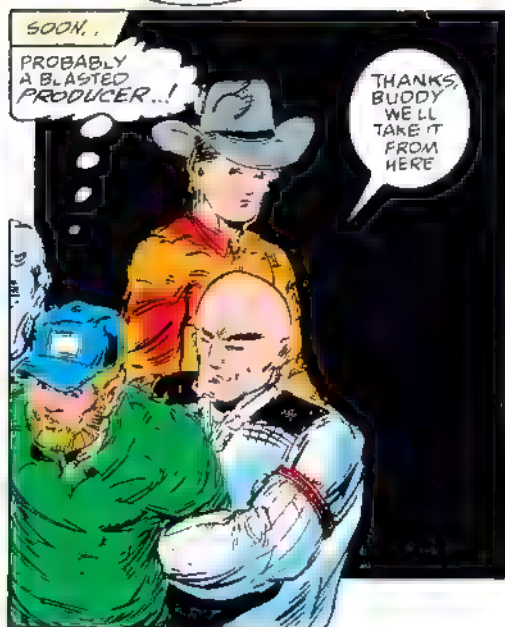
YEAH? YOUR **FACE** AIN'T GONNA
LOOK SO SWEET EITHER, ONCE I
GET THROUGH WITH--

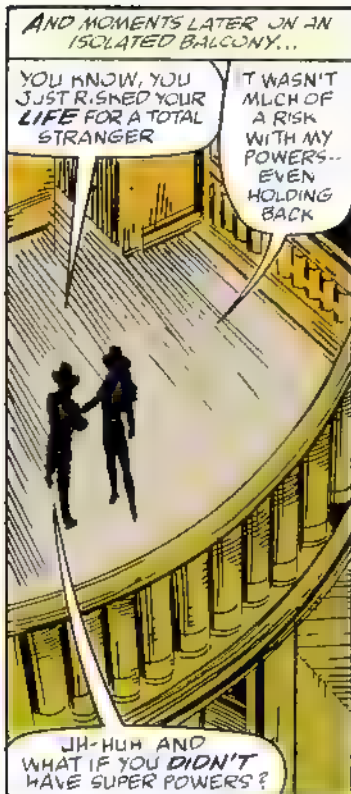


YOU'RE
CREATING A
DISTURBANCE,
SIR.

WOULD
YOU COME
WITH ME,
PLEASE?

KEPRESHH





AND MOMENTS LATER ON AN ISOLATED BALCONY...

YOU KNOW, YOU JUST RISKED YOUR LIFE FOR A TOTAL STRANGER

I WASN'T MUCH OF A RISK WITH MY POWERS-- EVEN HOLDING BACK

JH-HUH AND WHAT IF YOU *DIDN'T* HAVE SUPER POWERS?



WHY? WELL UH, I-I GUESS I WOULD HAVE TRIED TO TALK HIM OUT OF IT, OR...?

YOU WOULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING, PETER! BECAUSE THAT'S A PART OF YOU! AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THAT MAN IN THE ALLEY DID!



YOU BRAVE DANGER TO HELP PEOPLE EVERY DAY, AND I LIVE WITH THAT OUT OF RESPECT FOR YOU NOW *YOU* HAVE TO RESPECT IT IN THE MAN WHO DIED! IT WAS *HIS* CHOICE!

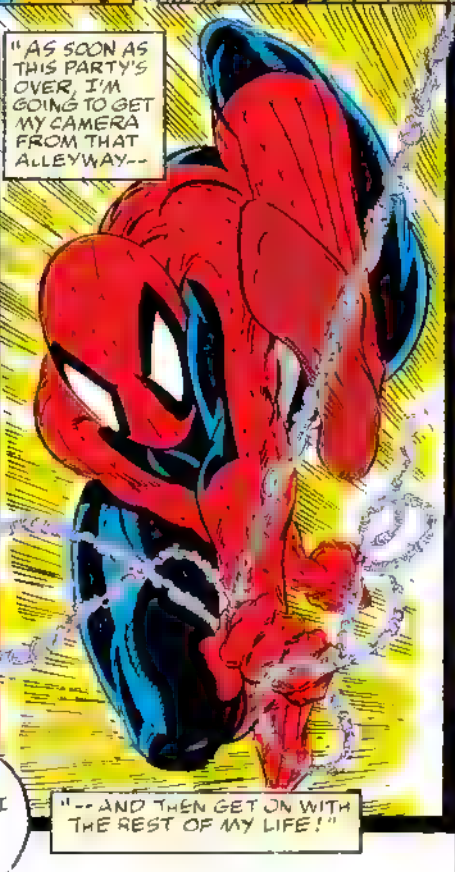


SPIDER-MAN JUST HAPPENED TO BE INVOLVED, BUT HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME IF ANYONE HAD BEEN IN JEOPARDY.

AND SO WOULD YOU.

I... I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT. GUESS I *HAVE* BEEN SELFISH, EXPECTING UNDERSTANDING FROM OTHERS, BUT NOT WILLING TO GIVE IT MYSELF.

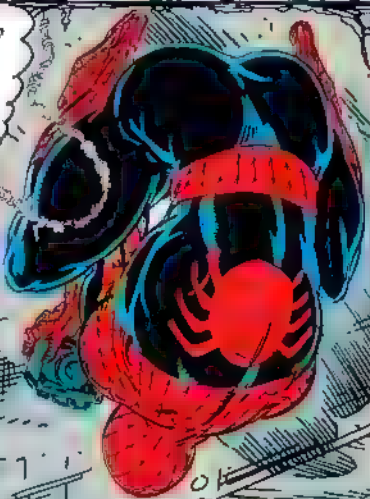
THE MAN'S DEATH STILL SADDENS ME-- A LOT-- BUT MAYBE I CAN ACCEPT IT NOW. THANKS FOR SETTING ME STRAIGHT, LADY.



"AS SOON AS THIS PARTY'S OVER, I'M GOING TO GET MY CAMERA FROM THAT ALLEYWAY--"

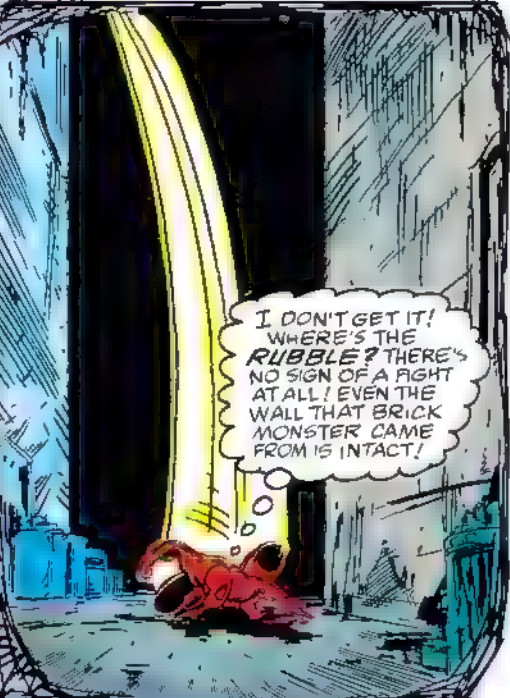
"-- AND THEN GET ON WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE!"

WEBBING
DISSOLVED
AFTER AN
HOUR.
CAMERA
DROPPED
TO A
LEDGE.



BUT IT'S STURDY,
SHOULDN'T BE DAMAGED
AT LEAST IT DIDN'T FALL
ALL THE WAY TO THE...
GROUND?

I DON'T GET IT!
WHERE'S THE
RUBBLE? THERE'S
NO SIGN OF A FIGHT
AT ALL! EVEN THE
WALL THAT BRICK
MONSTER CAME
FROM IS INTACT!



IT'S LIKE EVERYTHING
THAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT
WAS JUST A DREAM! AN
ILLUSION!

I MEAN, SURE, THE
ALLEY WAS **FOGGY**,
BUT THERE'S NO WAY
I COULD HAVE--WAIT
A MINUTE!

FOG?

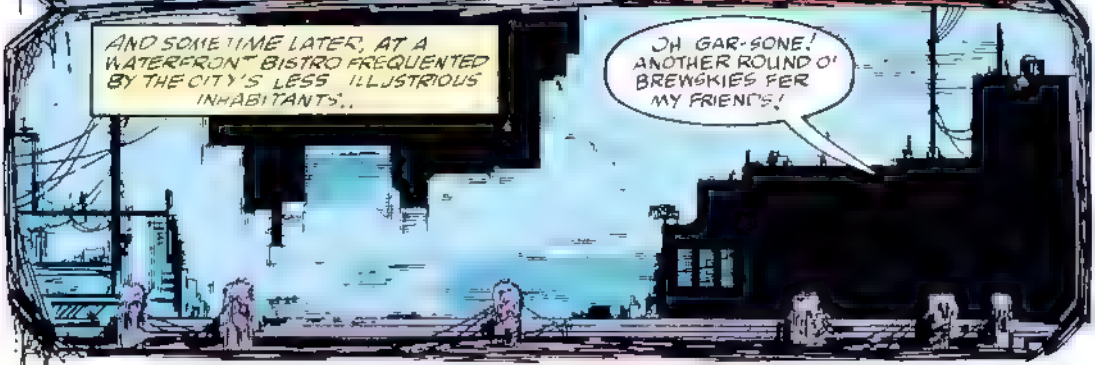
ILLUSION?

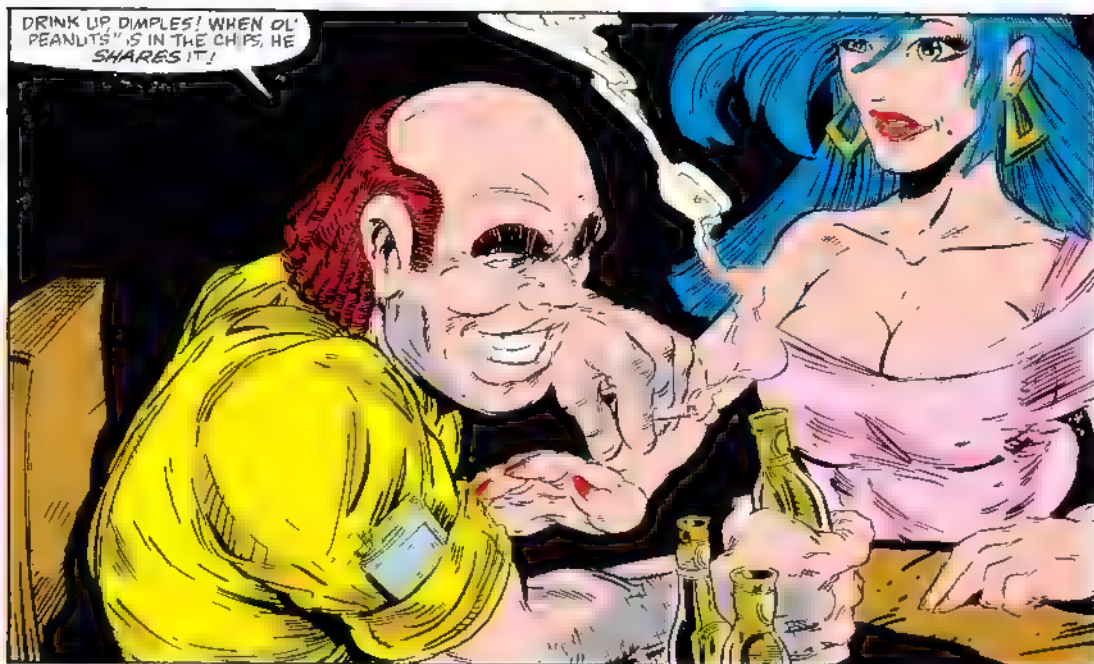


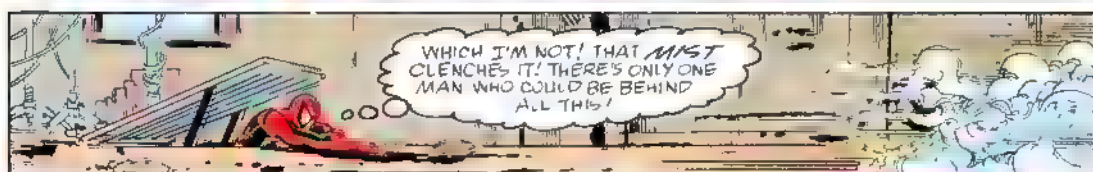
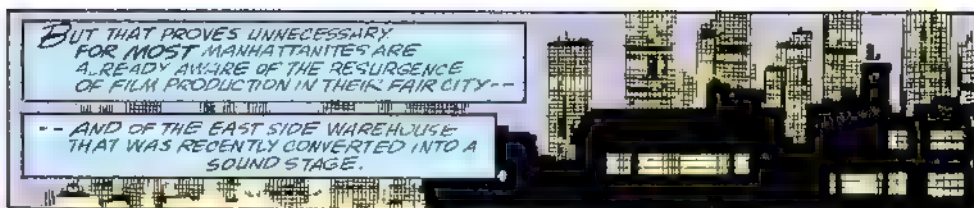
BINGO.

AND SOMETIME LATER, AT A
WATERFRONT BISTRO FREQUENTED
BY THE CITY'S LESS ILLUSTRIOUS
INHABITANTS...

OH GAR-SONE!
ANOTHER ROUND O'
BREWSKIES FER
MY FRIENDS!







IT WAS **MULROONY** WASN'T IT? I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. BUT I COULDN'T RESIST ADDING AN ELEMENT OF FAMILIARITY TO MAKE MY ULTIMATE ILLUSION MORE **BELIEVABLE!**

I HAD SPOTTER-TEAMS STATIONED FOR DAYS, WAITING TO REPORT WHERE YOU WERE SO I COULD **ACTIVATE** THAT ILLUSION! SO I COULD INSTILL IN YOU THE BELIEF THAT YOU WERE THE CAUSE OF AN INNOCENT MAN'S **DEATH!**

BUT WHY?

YOU'VE DEFEATED ME BEFORE, SPIDER-MAN. PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE CONVICTION THAT YOU **COULD!** I SOUGHT TO SHAKE YOU, TO UNDERMINE Y'UR CONFIDENCE! TO WEAKEN YOU PSYCHOLOGICALLY SO THAT **I** COULD DEFEAT **YOU!**

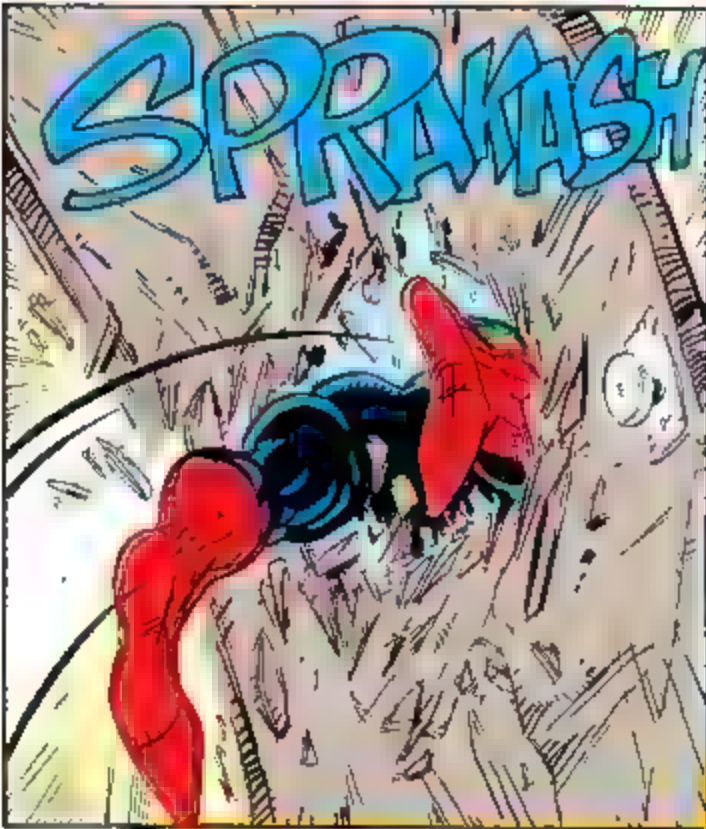
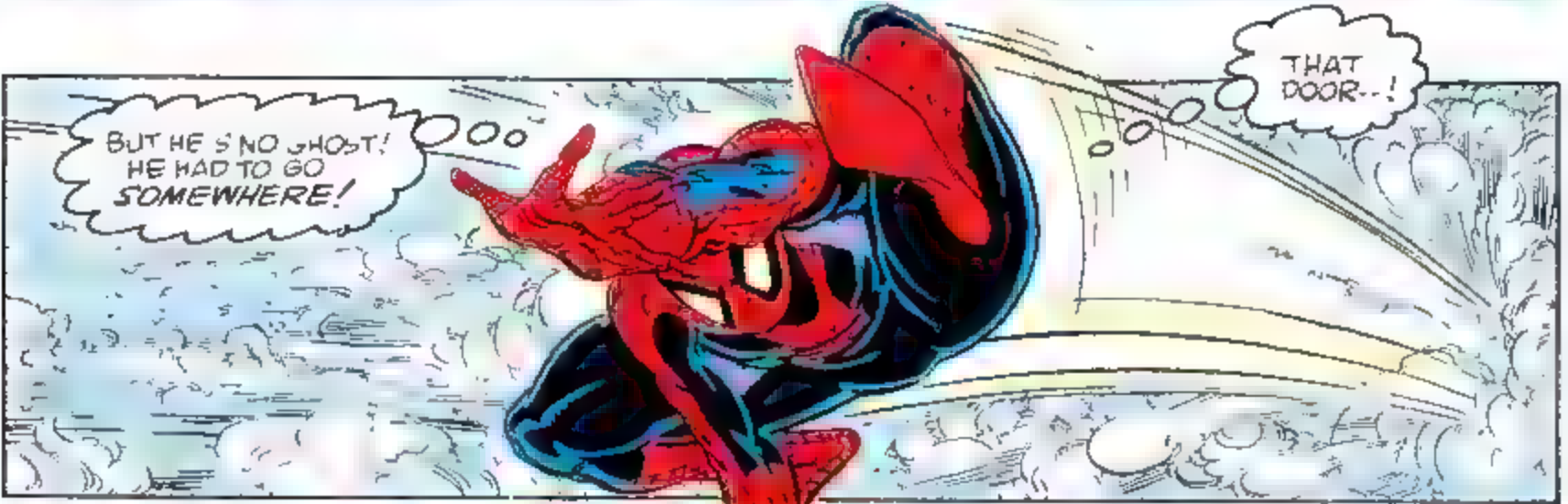
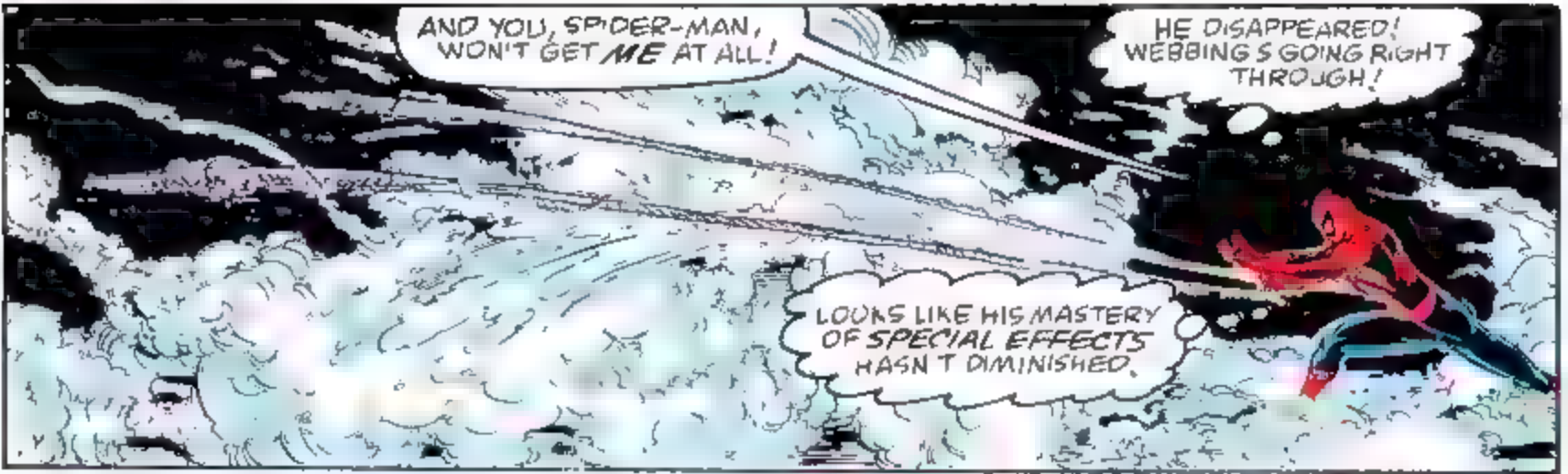
AND THUS PURSUE THE WEALTH AND FAME I'VE SO LONG COVETED, WITHOUT YOUR ANNOYING INTERFERENCE!

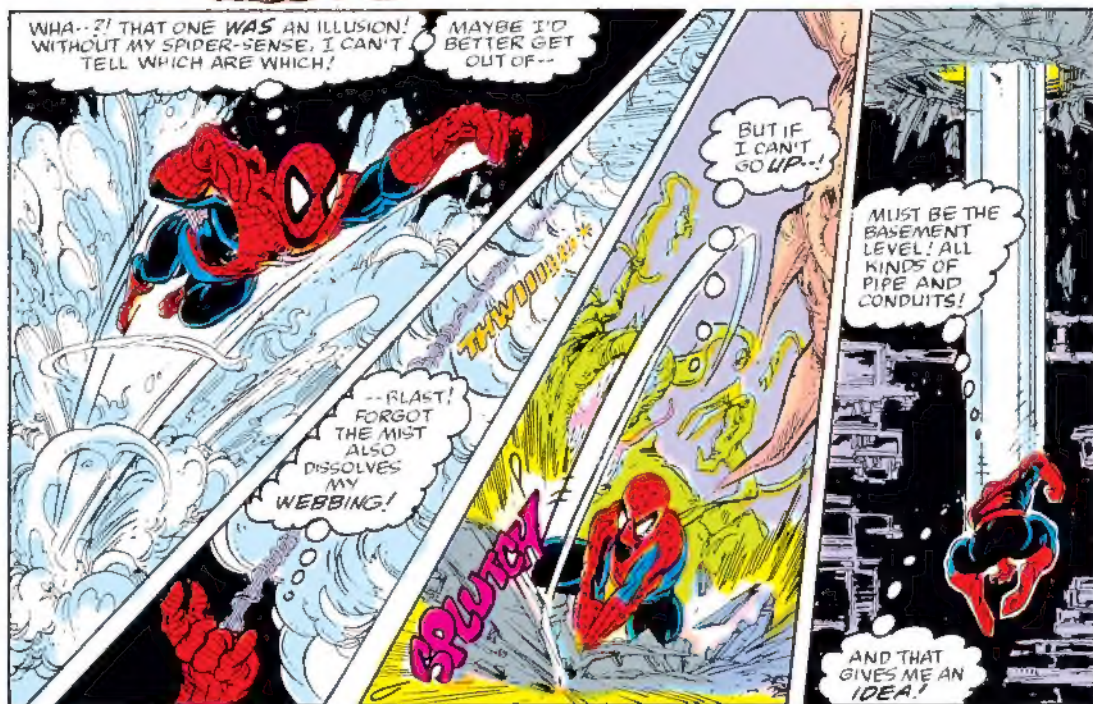
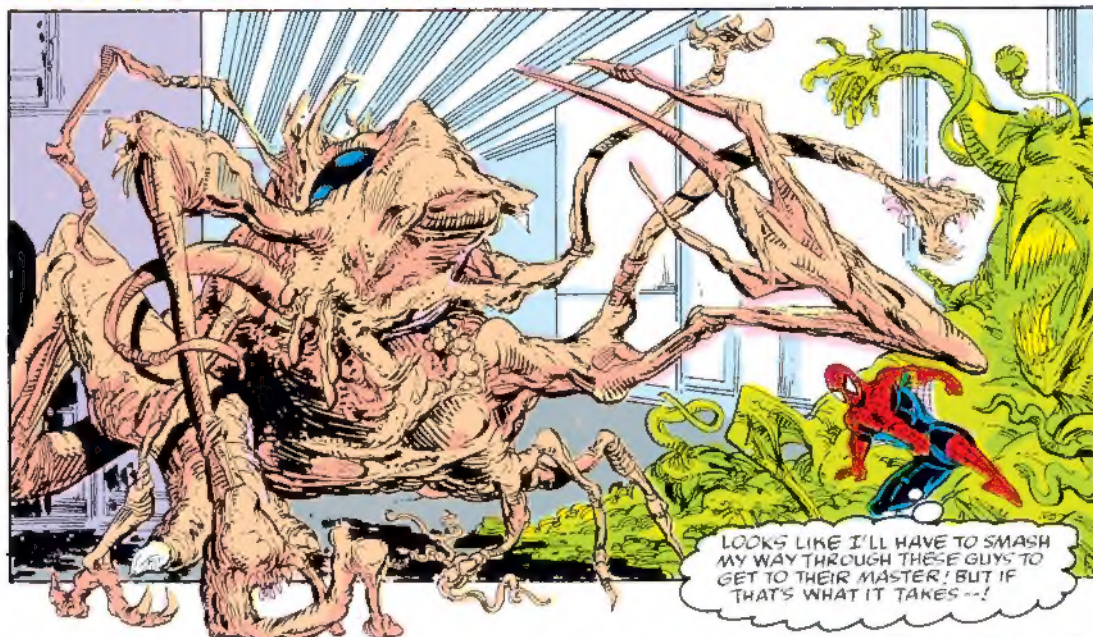
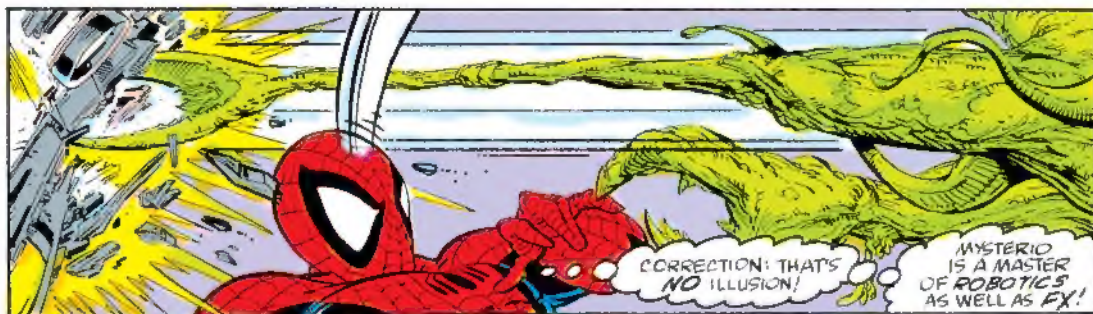
SOMETHING'S WRONG! HE'S **TALKING** INSTEAD OF ATTACKING! TRYING TO DISTRACT ME FROM-

-- THE MIST! ITS CHEMICALS DULL MY EARLY-WARNING **SPIDER-SENSE!**

BLAST IT, MYSTERIC! YOU WON'T GET ME **THAT** EASILY!









MYSTERIO NEEDS **POWER** TO
CREATE THOSE ALIEN ILLUSIONS!
MORE POWER THAN HE COULD
GENERATE WITH HIS COSTUME!

HE MUST BE TAPPING INTO
THE **STUDIO'S** POWER
SUPPLY BY REMOTE-
CONTROL!

IF I CAN
DESTROY
THE
SOURCE--!

IF I CAN
DESTROY
THE
SOURCE...

HE MUST BE TAPPING INTO
THE **STUDIO'S** POWER
SUPPLY BY REMOTE-
CONTROL!

THERE'S
THE CIRCUIT
BOX! NOW
TO--

НЦН?!

YOU KILLED ME,
SPIDER-MAN!
WHY WON'T YOU
JUST LEAVE ME
IN PEACE?

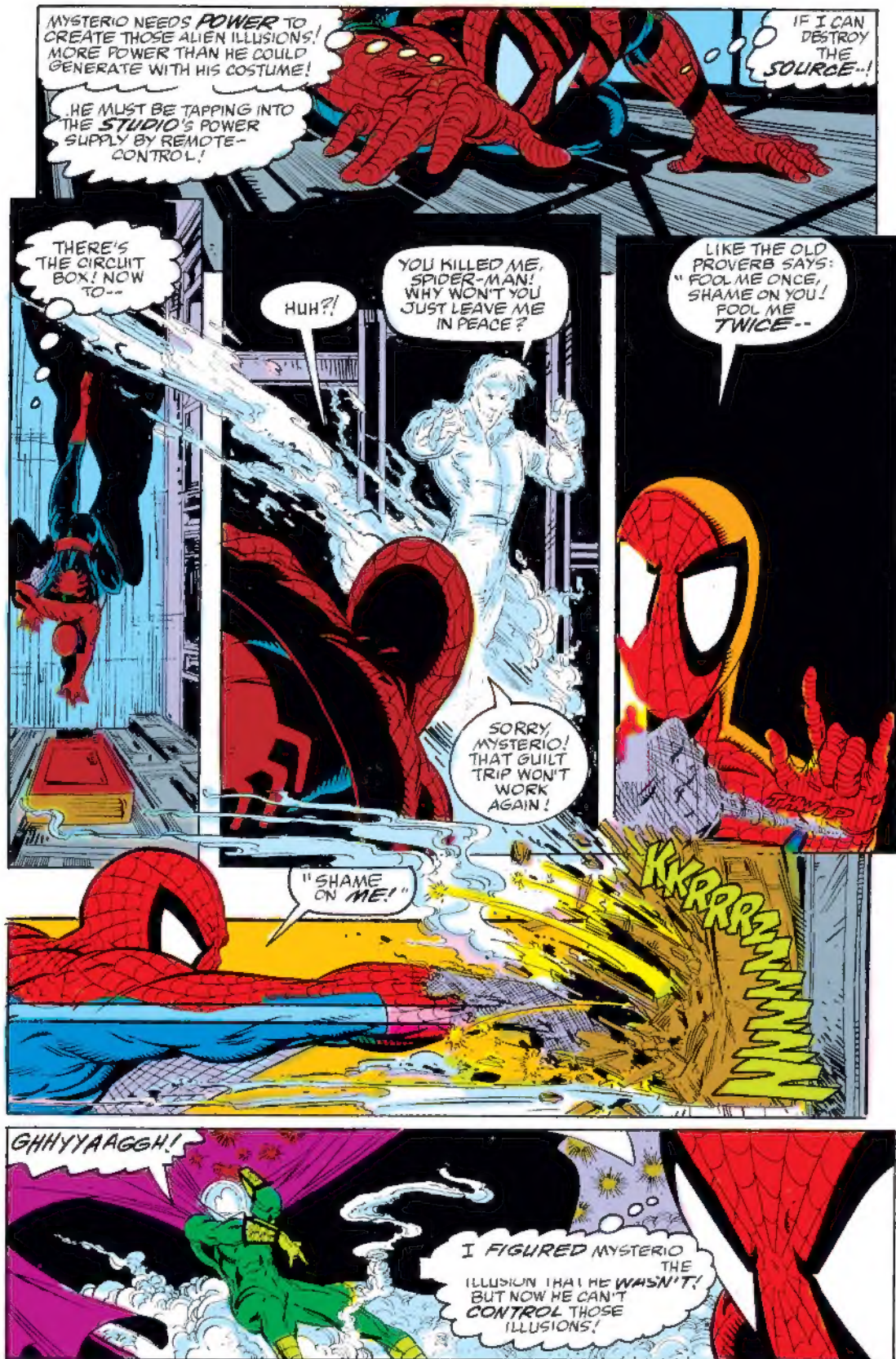
LIKE THE OLD
PROVERB SAYS:
"FOOL ME ONCE,
SHAME ON YOU!
FOOL ME
TWICE--

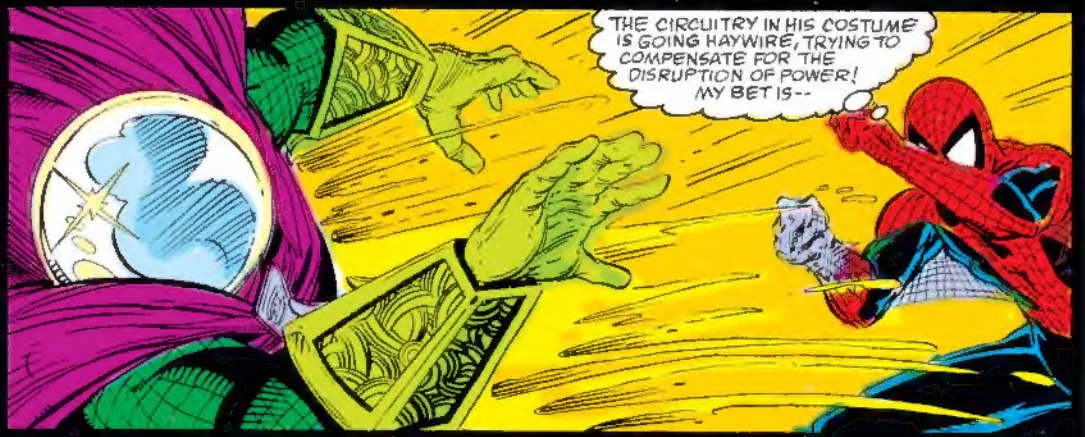
SORRY,
MYSTERIO!
THAT GUILT
TRIP WON'T
WORK
AGAIN!

"SHAME
ON *ME!*"

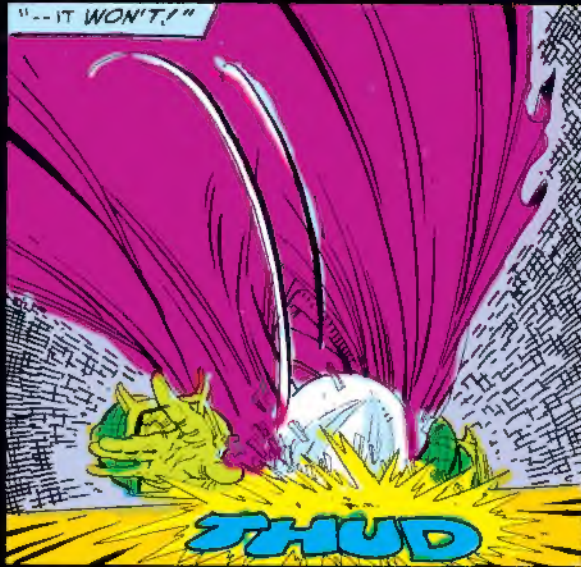
GHHYYAAGGH!

I FIGURED MYSTERIO
THE
ILLUSION THAT HE WASN'T!
BUT NOW HE CAN'T
CONTROL THOSE
ILLUSIONS!





THE CIRCUITRY IN HIS COSTUME IS GOING HAYWIRE, TRYING TO COMPENSATE FOR THE DISRUPTION OF POWER! MY BET IS--



"--IT WON'T!"



WELCOME TO REALITY PAL...

LATER AT THE BEDFORD TOWERS...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU. I ALSO DON'T KNOW WHY MYSTERIO CREATED ALL THOSE OTHER ILLUSIONS, LIKE THE LION STATUES AND ALL.

BUT NOW THAT HE'S IN POLICE CUSTODY--

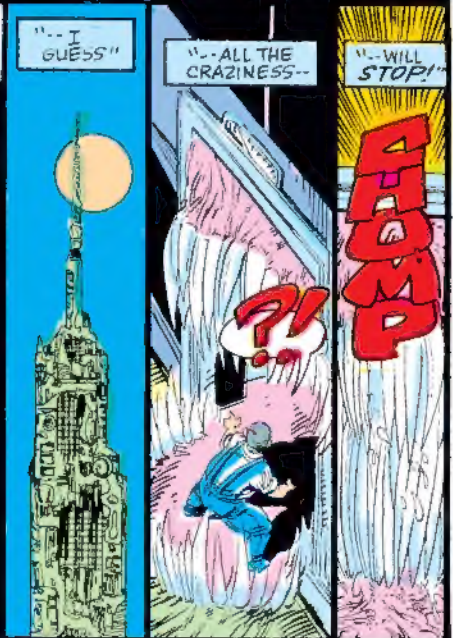
THANKS AGAIN FOR BEING STRONG FOR ME, MARY JANE.



"--I GUESS"

"--ALL THE CRAZINESS--"

"--WILL STOP!"



EPILOGUE:
 HICKSVILLE, L.I.
 INSIDE HARRY
 OSBURN.

HARRY!
 HARRY, WHAT
 IS IT?

IT... IT'S NOTHING,
 LIZ. JUST A DREAM.
 THE PRESSURES OF
 RUNNING THE FAMILY
 BUSINESS, I
 GUESS.

LISTEN,
 I'M GOING
 TO CHECK ON
 NORMAN.
 YOU GO BACK
 TO SLEEP,
 OKAY?

BOY'S FINE. OF
 COURSE HE IS!

GOTTA
 GET MY
 HEAD
 TO-
 GETHER!

I'VE ALLOWED THE PAST
 TO SCREW UP MY LIFE
 BEFORE, BUT I WON'T
 LET IT AFFECT MY SON!
 UH-UH.

CAN'T LET
 THOSE
 NIGHTMARES
 GET ME
 DOWN!

NO
 WAY!

TO FIND OUT HOW
 WRONG
 HARRY IS, CHECK OUT
 SPECTACULAR
 #146 -- AND THEN
 BE BACK HERE NEXT
 ISSUE FOR MORE ON
 "INFERNO" -- AND A
 FIGHT YOU NEVER
 THOUGHT YOU'D SEE!